Mineral	Estimated Reserves (in '000
Dolomite	206412.60
Limestone	1540954.00
Magnesite	272643.37
Rock Phosphate (Phosphorite)	27318.71
Talc/Soapstone/Steatite	106441.11

(b) and (c) Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made there under. However, only for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments. As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all the above minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral concerned in the view of the entrepreneur, based on demand and supply factors.

Mining of minerals in coastal areas

351. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any notification for coastal areas in the country where the mining of mineral sand is allowable;

(b) whether any coastal areas of Kerala have been declared as allowable for mining; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to allow private sector mining in Kerala coast; and

(d) whether the said proposal of mining recognise the provisions of Mineral Development Regulation Act of 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) As the State Governments are the

owners of minerals in onshore areas, including coastal areas, availability of the area for grant of mineral concessions can be notified by the concerned State Government.

(c) Since 1.4.2001, four proposals received from State Government -of Kerala for grant of mining leases in favour of M/s. Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited have been granted prior approval of the Central Government. Besides, three more proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining leases in favour of M/s. Kerala Rare Earth & Minerals Limited have also been received from State Government of Kerala.

(d) Ministry of Mines is not aware of the existence of Mineral Development Regulation Act, 2002 for grant of mineral concession. Grant of mineral concessions for the minerals found in the onshore areas including coastal areas are governed under the provisions of Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the rules framed there under.

Renewable Energy Vision 2012

†352. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any Renewable Energy Vision 2012 for achieving electrification target of those far-flung villages which cannot be electrified through traditional sources;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified these villages alongwith the names of villages which are situated in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra;

(c) the number of villages of these States which have been electrified under this programme so far; and

(d) the number of villages which have to be electrified during the year 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has taken

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.